47. The agricultural needs of the Mavelikara taluk.

Mr. Kanakku Kerulan Govindan (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) began by thanking the Government for pursuing a liberal policy in the matter of improving the industrial and economic condition of the people, and for paying increased attention to agriculture. He then observed that the chief need of the agriculturist in North and Central Travancore was improved means of irrigation, represented that the irrigation and drainage facilities in those parts were utterly neglected by Government, and suggested the appointment of an Agricultural Engineering Agency to go into the whole question.

The Member then made the following specific recommendations for the improvement of agriculture in the Mavelikara taluk.

(i) *Improving the Arattukadavu-Todiyur (Parayankari) canal.*—

With regard to this the Member observed that during the administration of Dewan Mr. P. Rajagopalachari the Government sanctioned the improvement of the canal, but only 3 or 4 miles of it were repaired about three years ago and that the balance of the work remained to be done. He prayed for the speedy improvement of the canal, as the large tracts of paddy fields on either side of the unfinished portion of the canal remained uncultivated, since their irrigation depended on this canal.

(ii) *Opening an outlet to Karingalichal punja*:—

This was a vast expanse of *punja* land measuring more than 1,000 acres surrounded on all sides by hilly tracts: an outlet was extremely necessary, as otherwise all the rainfall over the surrounding hills collected on the *punja* fields and overflowed the central canal which joined the river at Iranikuti. This portion of the river being silted up, the bed of the river was higher than that of the *punja* and the canal, so that water could not be drained away in time, and during the monsoon the fields got inundated and the crops were ruined. The Member suggested that the mouth of the canal might be diverted and another canal, a mile or so in length, might be opened to meet the river at a portion where the bed of the river was lower. The proposed canal would be a great boon to the ryots of the Nuranad, Tonnallur, Pantalam and Chunakkara *pakuthies*.

(iii) *Improving the canal at Tazhakkarapadam.* The lower portion of the canal was silted up, thereby causing great inconvenience to the ryots, and the Member prayed for the improvement of the same.

The Member also suggested the following works:—

(iv) Constructing groynes at Prayikara or diverting the course of the river so as to stop encroachments on the banks;

(v) Deepening the silted up portion of Taraimukku canal.

Dewan's reply.—It cannot but be conceded that the policy in regard to these canals and the conservancy of water and of its drainage has been one of drift. I do admit that these matters require much more attention than the P.W. Department has devoted to it in the past. As I have said, I am contemplating certain measures with a view to secure greater attention to the works referred to by you. Government will see what can be done in the matter. I am, however, unable to give a definite promise. In regard to the works of the Parayankari river, funds have been sanctioned. I shall see that works to the amount of those funds at least are carried out this year.

48. Agricultural needs of the Chengannur Taluk.

Mr. K. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur Taluk) pointed out that the ryots of the Chengannur taluk, which is bounded by three big rivers, the Pamba river on the northern side, the Achankoil river on the southern side and the Kuttanperur river on the western side joining the first two, had been suffering heavy losses for the past 70 years on account of inundation during the rainy season and scarcity of water during the hot season. There were 17,000 *paras* of cultivable

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly